

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

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PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS MAY 11 MEDIA REACTION TO
AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICA TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. LENGTHY STORIES BY RANDAL (WPOST) AND KAUFMAN (NYTIMES)
ABOUT EQUALLY DIVIDED IN COVERAGE OF YOUNG AND COM
CONFERENCE. REFERRING TO SOUTH AFRICA CONTROVERSY THAT
CLOUDS YOUNG'S SECOND EXTENSIVE MISSION TO AFRICA, RANDAL
STATES THAT YOUNG DOES NOT THINK THERE IS A PARALLEL BETWEEN
THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THOSE OF THE AMERICAN
SOUTH IN THE 1960S BUT GOES ON THAT 'THERE ARE POSSIBLY
SOME LESSONS' WHICH SOUTH AFRICA CAN LEARN FROM THE CIVIL
RIGHTS STRUGGLE. RANDAL INTERPRETS THIS MEAN "THE KIND
OF SELECTIVE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
WAGED AGAINST SOME WHITE COMPANIES IN THE SOUTH."

3. ON YOUNG, KAUFMAN MENTIONS THE UNCERTAINTY IN YOUNG'S
ITINERARY INCLUDING THE NIGERIA STOP IS IN DOUBT
BUT THAT YOUNG'S AIDES "EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE" THAT THE SAG
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WILL ALLOW YOUNG TO ENTER AND ALSO "SUGGESTED OTHER COUNTRIES,
PERHAPS INCLUDING ANGOLA," MIGHT BE ADDED.

4. AS REGARDS COM CONFERENCE BOTH RANDAL AND KAUFMAN
CITED DIVERGENCE OF OPINION REGARDING SOVIET INITIATIVES
IN AFRICA WITH SOME AMBASSADORS ARGUING THERE IS A
"THREAT IN SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA IN CLASSIC

COLD WAR TERMS" AND ANOTHER GROUP ARGUING AGAINST OVER-REACTION TO SOVIET ADVANCES SAYING U.S. "MUST GET ALONG WITH THE OFTEN VERBALLY RADICAL THIRD WORLD GOVERNMENTS ON THE CONTINENT" (RANDAL). KAUFMAN WRITES ONE GROUP ARGUES U.S. HAS A "SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY" TO MODERATE AND FRIENDLY AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WHICH, HE CONTINUES, "HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR DISMAY AT SUCH PRONOUNCEMENTS AS MR. YOUNG'S ASSERTION THAT THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA REPRESENTED 'A STABILIZING FORCE'." THIS GROUP OF DIPLOMATS, KAUFMAN CONTINUES, SAY THAT THE MODERATE COUNTRIES ARE "INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY WHAT THEY VIEW OMINOUSLY AS A LACK OF RESOLVE ON THE PART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO COUNTER SOVIET CHALLENGES." ARRAYED AGAINST THIS GROUP, KAUFMAN WRITES, ARE THOSE AMBASSADORS WHO ARGUE AGAINST OVERREACTION BY WASHINGTON AND THAT THE "BEST THING THE UNITED STATES CAN DO IN AFRICA IS TO OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE SOVIET INFLUENCE IS STRONG OR EVEN DOMINANT."

5. BOTH RANDAL AND KAUFMAN CITE BEWILDERMENT OF AMBASSADORS REGARDING ROLES OF MONDALE, VANCE AND YOUNG IN THE FORMULATION OF FOREIGN POLICY AND THE CONFUSION IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN FORMULATING A DEFINITE AFRICAN POLICY. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADORS, ACCORDING TO BOTH STORIES, ARE DELIGHTED BY THE OPENNESS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

6. MOST OTHER PAPERS USE AP STORY QUOTED IN YESTERDAY'S UNCLASSIFIED

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MEDIA REACTION REPORT. ONLY NEW DIMENSION IN ANOTHER SCHMEMANN STORY FILED TODAY IS THAT YOUNG DEFENDED HIS DECISION TO ATTEND THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE BY SAYING ' IF 80 STATES GET TOGETHER ANYWHERE, WE'VE GOT TO BE THERE' AND THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION AT SUCH MEETINGS WAS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP TIES WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

7. CS-MONITOR UNDER HEAD "SOUTH AFRICA PERMITS YOUNG VISIT" CARRIES REUTERS REPORT OUT OF JOHANNESBURG THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS CONVEYED ITS DECISION TO THE U.S. BUT HAS NOT MADE THE DECISION KNOWN PUBLICLY. HOWEVER, THE STORY QUOTES WELL-INFORMED SOURCES THAT THEY EXPECTED THE DECISION TO BE A "QUALIFIED YES." STORY DOES NOT EXPLAIN THIS PHRASE.
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